

REMARKS

Claims 40 – 47 and 49 - 52 are pending. Claim 48 have been cancelled. Claims 40, 51, and 52 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

In the October 24, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 40, 46 – 47, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,728,559 to Masaki (“the Masaki reference”). The Examiner also rejected claims 40 – 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51 – 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,804,110 to Amemiya et al. (“the Amemiya reference”). The Examiner also rejected claims 44 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Masaki reference.

The Examiner objected to claim 48 as being depended upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant has amended claim 40 (which is the base claim for allowable claim 48) by including all of the limitations of allowable claim 48 and has cancelled claim 48. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 48 is in condition for allowance. Claims 41 – 47 and 49 – 50 depend, indirectly or directly on claim 40. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 41 – 47 and 49 – 50 are also in condition for allowance.

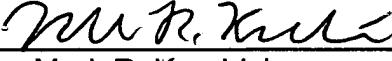
The applicant has amended independent claims 51 and 52 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 48. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 51 and 52, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

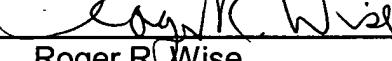
Respectfully submitted,

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